



IN FAR COUNTRIES.

During the last two centuries the wealth of Great Britain has increased forty-fold.

France has more persons over sixty years of age than any other country. Ireland comes next.

The inhabitants of Hellas, in Greece, are fond of butter churned from sheep's milk. It is semi-liquid. Cows are used as beasts of burden.

It costs \$100,000,000 to maintain the army in Spain, and only \$1,500,000 to educate the children. It is the exception to find a Spanish farmer who is able to read or write.

In a hurricane at Bathurst a mass of timber weighing eight tons was detached from the showground pavilion and carried 200 yards. The timber in the pavilion was all splintered like matchwood.

A meteorite, weighing 196 pounds, has been found on the salt marsh east of Mulga downs, Northwest Australia. It was an iron-stained mass of bright, pure metal, not a particle of stone being visible, and when struck with any hard substance rings like an anvil. It is two feet long, one foot at its greatest width and eight inches thick.

READY READING.

Buddhism is represented by about a dozen newspapers.

The population of the islands of Japan numbers 41,000,000.

Zoologists say that all known species of wild animals are gradually diminishing in size.

The painting of the catacombs of Thebes is so well done that after a lapse of 4,000 years the colors are as bright as when first laid on.

Roman swords, recovered from tombs, weigh six to ten pounds and battle axes weighed twenty, showing the great strength of Roman soldiers.

Shaving the beard and hair as a sign of mourning was common among almost all nations, and is even now practiced in several parts of the world.

The steam whistle, or rather its parent, the steam trumpet, was first devised in Leicestershire, and first made by a local musical instrument maker.

A man presented himself to a Chicago coroner, and asked what the chances were for securing a job as a juror. He said he had tried everything else and failed.

The bodies of Greeks, when not burned, were placed in earthenware coffins and buried in tombs along the highways. An occasional exception was made in favor of distinguished men, who were sometimes buried in the forums of the towns.

David Walker, the last survivor of the Shinnecock Indians, who died recently at Southampton, L. I., was at one time officer on a Massachusetts whaler and lost one of his legs by getting mixed up with a rope that was attached to a wounded whale.

When James Freeman Clarke and Dr. Holmes were in college together once they were talking of metaphysics, when Holmes exclaimed: "I tell you, James, what I think metaphysics is like. It is like a man splitting a log. When it is done he has two to split."

There are, all told, men and women, about 400 missionary workers connected with sixteen missionary societies on the continent of South America, with its population of 37,000,000. This includes ordained and unordained men, missionaries' wives, men and women teachers and lady helpers.

QUIZ AND QUERY.

Lady—Pray, sir, keep your seat. I—Stranger—I'd like to, miss, just to please you, but I'll have to walk back a block if I don't get off at this street.

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SKELETONS OF NOTED CRIMINALS FOR COMPANIONS.

Fantastic Fancies of an Irishman—Eschews the "Wee Cobbeen" for the Aroma of the Hookah of the Turk and the Narghili.



HE QUEEREST domicile in New York is that of Dr. William J. O'Sullivan the brilliant young lawyer scientist who defended Carlyle Harris, Dr. Meyer and Dr. Buchanan and will defend Mrs. Dr. Meyer. He

abides on Washington place. A big, old fashioned mansion it is, once upon a time the town residence of a notable family. Few visitors enter his picturesque "den." The doctor prefers to live his social life on the outside of these heavy oaken doors which give access to his veritable "chambers of mystery." Dr. O'Sullivan ought to have been born a pasha or a bey. His leanings in the matter of house furniture are entirely oriental. Indeed, while at home, he even assumes the dress of the Mohammedan. When I visited him, it was to find his stalwart figure becomingly clad in loose linen breeches and braided jacket, while on his head reposed a gorgeous turban which would not have disgraced a Bosphorus pasha or a mosque at Stamboul. His feet were incased in costly Persian slippers, the gift of Mir Aulad Ali, a Teheran dignitary who met the doctor on one of his eastern tours, and who shares with him a deep interest in the science of toxicology. On a lacquered table at his side—the table came from Alexandria—stood a beautifully ornamented narghili, or Turkish pipe, which he was in the act of puffing when I entered. The pipe is nearly two feet in height. Its long tube ends in an amber mouthpiece. "I don't smoke tobacco with my narghili," explained the doctor; "in fact, owing to the water in the pipe, an enjoyable smoke could hardly be obtained with the Virginia leaf. The Arabian tawbaki is my 'Arcadia mixture.' Tawbaki is a sort of first cousin of tobacco. The Arabs smoked it many centuries before Sir Walter Raleigh brought tobacco from the Americas."

It must not be supposed that the only adornments of Dr. O'Sullivan's apartments are eastern. He can boast of the most interesting and gruesome collection of skulls and skeletons I have ever seen. The entrance door is flanked by two grinning specimens of the latter. These hideous twins have, each of them, a history. Indeed, all the doctor's relics of this kind have histories.

"I can not tell you whose cadavers these are," said the doctor, with a sly smile. "If I did the authorities might not like it. But I will own that the skeleton on the right is that of a notorious murderer; while its companion once formed the framework of a blood-thirsty western desperado, who paid the penalty of his hundred crimes on the gallows. See this dinge on his frontal bone? That was made by a bullet, fired as he swung from the fatal tree."

If anyone enters the doctor's dressing room he will be startled to find peering over the mirror there a hideous skull, while two fleshless hands clasp candlesticks on either side. The natural gruesomeness of these relics of mortality is, however, greatly dispelled by the fact that the skull wears a Turkish fez perched rakishly over its forehead, while a cigaret is thrust between the lank digits of one hand. The skull is that of a celebrated burglar.



"I DON'T SMOKE TOBACCO WITH MY NARGHILI."

lar; and the hands were once quite pretty and covered with jewels, since they belonged to a French actress who poisoned one of her lovers. Another skeleton—that of a second prisoner—stands sentry at the bedroom door, and, oddly enough, this specimen has a wooden leg. A skeleton with a wooden leg has the comic side which the doctor's keen sense of humor is not slow to grasp. A miniature catacomb of skull and skeleton is the study, and, in the corridor, is a skeleton in armor—very fine Milanese armor at that.

"I must decline to unravel the identity of any members of my collection," said the doctor, "not because I have no legal right to their possession, but simply because I promised the donors or vendors to preserve silence upon the subject. If I were to tell you their identity you would own that my rooms would be worth big money to Mme. Tussaud's representatives in

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their brick palace on the Marylebone road."

"I should fancy," observed the writer, "that living among cadavers can hardly be agreeable."

"Nonsense," replied the doctor, "they are the best people in the world. They are full of tact and never bore one. Sometimes I lie awake at night and fancy I hear them talking. What stories they do tell—stories of murder and robbery and other deviltries that thrill me more than any novel I ever read. That little French actress whose skull is on the mantle piece and whose hands stretch from behind the mirror, is a most vivacious person. You should hear her chatter about the Quarter Latin and the Moulin Rouge and the brave old life in the 'Boul Mich.' It is very entertaining. One of my murderers, too, is a capital story teller. I think he could give Dr. Conan Doyle abundant points for a second edition of 'Sherlock Holmes.'"

Besides skeletons and eastern knick-knacks, Dr. O'Sullivan's rooms are filled with books. Great books, small books, fat books, thin books—books new and books old, books wise and books witty—law books, medical books, volumes of poetry and novels of the day. He piled in picturesque order here, there and everywhere. The doctor is an omnivorous reader, and believes in a variety of mental pabulum. Bookshelves he eschews, preferring as he quaintly puts it, "to give the books their liberty and not shut them up in a dungeon behind glass doors."

Altogether a very interesting evening may be spent in Dr. O'Sullivan's quarters, particularly when the doctor



"THAT SKELETON WAS A NOTORIOUS MURDERER."

himself is at leisure to play the host in his easy way, and to explain in that rich Munster brogue of which he is so proud, the many strange and the many beautiful treasures which those cozy rooms contain.

Chipper—Ah, Chipper, my boy, you tell me you were a "little out of the way" when you came home last night. Chipper—Look at that cheek old man. That proves I wasn't far enough out of the way to escape the umbrella she swung at me as I came in the hall.

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